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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

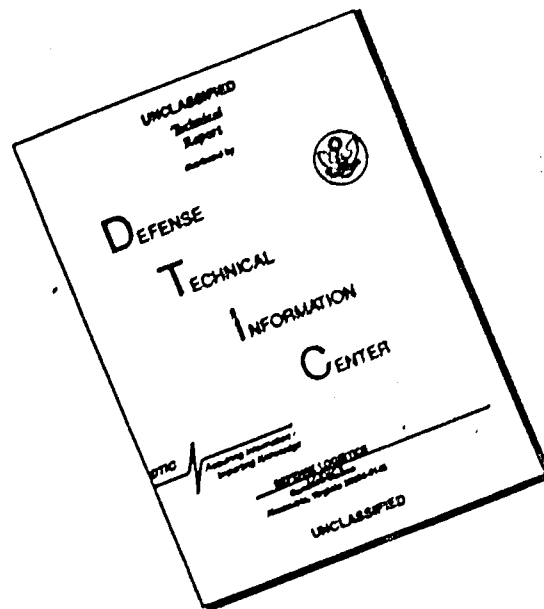
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AD 13. — AD 874191
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 97TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96312

140-8-1
INDEXED

AVBGF-J

14 November 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1966,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of
the Army, Washington D.C. 20310
Commander in Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPCP-MH,
APO US Forces 96558
Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN:
AVC-DH, APO US Forces 96307
Commanding Officer, 18th Military Police Brigade, APO US Forces
96307
Commanding Officer, 16th Military Police Group, APO US Forces
96240

1. Section 1, Significant Organization or Unit Activities.

a. CONUS Training and Embarkation: Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 97th Military Police Battalion is organized under TOE 19-5000, Team AD, and was activated at Fort Lewis, Washington on 1 June 1966. At the same time, three separate military police companies and one military police detachment were activated and temporarily assigned to this headquarters for command and administrative control while undergoing POM at that installation. Concurrently, seven infantry companies, minus their weapons platoons, were activated and a provisional battalion headquarters was established to exercise command and administrative control over these units while they underwent their POM at Fort Lewis. This commander was aware that three of these infantry companies would be a portion of the subordinate units assigned to this battalion for the performance of its mission in RVN. Every effort to identify those companies and gain their immediate assignment to this headquarters in order that the greater part of this battalion could train and ship together, was to no avail. By 30 July 1966, the headquarters and headquarters detachment concluded its training cycle with the successful completion of its ATT. For the next twenty-seven days, beginning 1 August 1966, this headquarters continued to draw its authorized equipment, prepare it for shipment, deliver it to the port, rotate its personnel on fourteen days leave, and maintain command and administrative control of the heretofore mentioned military police units.

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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT
(ARMY) ATTN: FOR OT UT, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

FOR OT UT
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On the night of 27 August 1966, the headquarters and headquarters detachment departed Fort Lewis, flew chartered commercial air to San Francisco, and embarked from Oakland Army Terminal aboard the USNS Patrick on 29 August 1966. After a smooth voyage of eighteen days, this headquarters disembarked at Cam Ranh Bay, RVN on 16 September 1966.

b. Current Operations: On 19 September 1966, this headquarters assumed command and administrative control of its only subordinate unit in country, the 630th Military Police Company, which supports the provost marshal operations at Cam Ranh Bay. This headquarters is currently requesting additional equipment, preparing company areas for the arrival of its remaining subordinate units, and planning for the construction of security fences around piers and critical areas. This headquarter's immediate concern is to establish an RTT communications system with its higher headquarters.

2. Section 2, Commanders Observations and Recommendations.

a. Section 2, Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned):

(1) Training and organization.

Subordinate Units

Item: This headquarters lost the opportunity to train its subordinate infantry units for their overseas security mission, and prepare them for concurrent deployment as a battalion.

Discussion: Initially, this headquarters was scheduled for activation at Fort Benning, Georgia. This was changed to Fort Lewis because the subordinate infantry units were activated there concurrently. However, these units were not assigned to this headquarters, and this headquarters trained units that were not assigned to it overseas. This resulted in a two months delay in the deployment of the assigned infantry units.

Observation: Subordinate units should be assigned to their parent unit, trained, and deployed together.

(2) Logistics.

Red TAT Equipment

Item: Loading, unloading, and marking of red tat equipment.

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Discussion: This headquarters arrived at Cam Ranh Bay with nineteen red tat containers aboard ship. Only five containers could be located and unloaded at this port. The remaining containers were unloaded at the next port, Vung Tau, and had to be transshipped back to Cam Ranh Bay.

Observation: All of one unit's red tat equipment should be stowed together in the same hold of the ship. For easier identification, the tops of each container as well as all four sides should be stenciled with the UIC.

Water Tank Truck

Item: This headquarters has no capability of supplying its subordinate units with non potable water for showers and laundry.

Discussion: While unit water trailers are sufficient for supplying potable drinking water, there are no provisions made to authorize units an additional water transport capability for their non potable water requirements. Further there are no units organized with the mission of supplying this requirement.

Recommendation: Battalion size units stationed in Viet Nam should be authorized the equipment to transport water and supply its subordinate units. Preferably a water tank truck with pump should be considered.

WABTOC Package

Item: The issuing of WABTOC packages.

Discussion: Present procedure is to issue the WABTOC packages to the deploying unit in CONUS to accompany or follow the deploying unit. The in country sponsoring unit could be of greater assistance if these packages arrived prior to that of the deploying unit.

Observation: Issue WABTOC packages in country to the sponsoring unit or the deploying unit's advance party.

(3) Operations and Logistics.

Communications

Item: Improvement of internal and external communications.

Discussion: Inadequate and indirect radio communications presently exist between the military police security sentries aboard ships in the harbor

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and the PMO. Further a reliable and secure means of communicating with higher headquarters is dependent on inadequate, overloaded communications support. Neither are responsive to the timely requirements of the military police.

Observation: Additional radios have been requested to increase the security capability of the sentries aboard ships in the harbor. An MTOE was submitted to add a RTT capability to this headquarters to communicate with its higher headquarters.

b. Section 2, Part II, Recommendations:

(1) Training and Organization:

Subordinate Units

Recommendation: Headquarters USARV notify CONARC of most probable assignment of units whenever possible.


(2) Logistics.

Red TAT Equipment

Recommendation: Containers of red tat equipment be marked on all four sides.

WABTOC Package

Recommendation: Issue WABTOC equipment to a sponsoring unit when that unit is to be assigned or organic to the incoming unit.


H. I. PITCHFORD
LTC, LTC
Commanding

AVRST (14 November 1966) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1966
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

Headquarters, 16th Military Police Group, APO 96240, 23 November 1966

TO: Commanding Officer, 18th Military Police Brigade, APO 96307

1. The Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1966 of the 97th Military Police Battalion is attached as Inclosure 1.

2. I feel that this report is generally adequate and the recommendations valid. A summarization and specific comments regarding areas of nonconcurrence are contained in the following paragraphs. All comments are keyed to specific sections, paragraphs and items of the basic report.

a. (Section 1, para 1a) The 97th Military Police Battalion was assigned to the 16th Military Police Group on 26 September 1966. No official relationship existed between these units prior to that date.

b. (Section 1, para 1b) The concern expressed over the present lack of RTF communications is shared by me and my staff. TOE 19-500D, under which the battalion headquarters is organized, does not authorize RTF equipment. However, every effort is being made to reorganize that headquarters under TOE 19-500E, which would authorize the necessary AN/GRC-46 equipment and partially alleviate this problem. An FM communications net is currently being established between the battalion and group headquarters.

c. (Section 2, Part 1, para 2a (2), Water Tank Truck) I do not concur with the observation that a water tank truck be authorized for issue to each battalion-size unit for the purpose of supplying non-potable water for showers and laundry. This problem is peculiar to the unit's area of operations and is a service responsibility of the area support command. Local improvisations have provided a temporary solution to the problem; however, the continuing requirement should be resolved through the headquarters charged with the responsibility for providing this support.

d. (Section 2, Part 1, para 2a (3), Communications) It is recognized that currently authorized communications equipment is neither adequate to meet the internal needs of the unit, nor is it sufficient to support mission requirements. This headquarters has concurred in all requests for authorization to obtain the additional communications equipment and personnel essential to mission accomplishment. An LTCE has been submitted and approved for the company charged with the mission of harbor security, thereby increasing its communications capability.

AVEGF (14 November 1966)

1st Ind

23 November 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1966
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

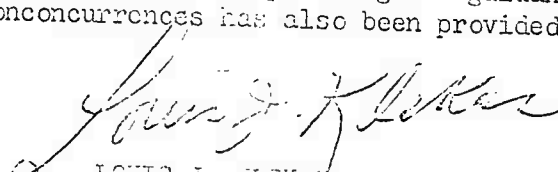
e. (Section 2, Part II, para 2b, (1)) Concur. Early notification on the probable assignment of units would provide organizational headquarters lead time during which they could realistically plan future operational requirements.

f. (Section 2, Part II, para 2b (2), Red TAT Equipment) Concur. Marking red TAT containers on all four sides and the top should be accomplished for ease in identification of containers while still stowed in the ship's hold.

g. (Section 2, Part II, para 2b (2), MASTOC Packages) Nonconcur. Since MASTOC packages are identified with the unit, the present system of shipping the packages with the deploying unit helps to insure that they are delivered to the unit for which they are issued. However, it is recommended that these packages be red disk TAT.

3. The Commanding Officer, 97th Military Police Battalion, has been provided with a copy of this indorsement for his planning and guidance. A thorough explanation of all nonconcurrences has also been provided.

1-121
as


LOUIS J. ALEKAS
Colonel APC
Commanding

AVBGF-J (14 Nov 66)

2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October
1966 Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

HEADQUARTERS, 18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE, APO 96307, 18 Dec 66

TO: Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam ATTN: AVC-DH
APO 96307

1. The Operational Report-Lessons Learned submitted by the 97th Military Police Battalion for the quarter ending 31 October 1966 is forwarded herewith.

2. This headquarters has reviewed the report and the first indorsement and adds the following comments:

a. Reference Section 1, paragraph 1b, page 2 and paragraph 2b, 1st Ind: This headquarters directed that the 97th Military Police Battalion take necessary action to reorganize under 19-500E.

b. Reference Section 2, Part I, paragraph 2a (2, (Water Tank Truck), page 3 and paragraph 2c, 1st Ind: Concur with comments of 1st Ind.

c. Reference Section 2, Part I, paragraph 2a (3), page 4 and paragraph 2d, 1st Ind: The MPOE for the 630th Military Police Company was submitted prior to the arrival of this headquarters and is currently at a permanent of the Army. USARV, however, has requested by letter dated 12 December 1966 that justification be reviewed and resubmitted. Reply to USARV letter will be forwarded NLT 1 January 1967.

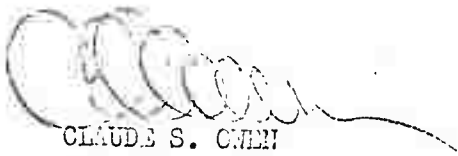
d. Reference Section 2, Part II, paragraph 2b (1), page 4 and paragraph 2e, 1st Ind: Concur with comment of 1st Ind.

e. Reference Section 2, Part II, paragraph 2b (2) (Red TAT Equipment), page 4 and paragraph 2f, 1st Ind: Concur with comment of 1st Ind.

f. Reference Section 2, Part II, paragraph 2b (2) (WABTOC Package), page 4 and paragraph 2g, 1st Ind: Concur with comment of 1st Ind.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1-Encl.
nc


CLAUDE S. OWEN
CPT, MPC
Adjutant

7

AVHGC-DH (14 Nov 66)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 8 JAN '67

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

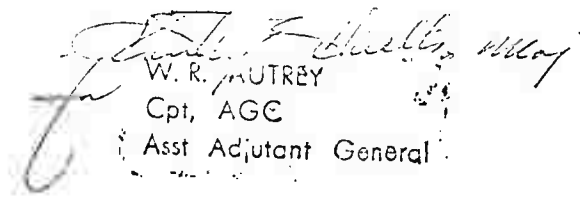
1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 October 1966 from Headquarters, 97th Military Police Battalion as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments are as follows:

a. Reference Paragraph 1a, Section 1, Page 1; Paragraph 2a(1), Part I, Section 2, Page 2; Paragraph b(1), Section 2, Part II, Page 4; Paragraph 2e, 1st Indorsement; and Paragraph d, 2d Indorsement: It would be desirable to have subordinate units assigned, trained, and deployed with their parent unit providing time, geographic location and an established command relationship permits.

b. In this specific instance it does not appear feasible to have the infantry companies assigned to the Military Police Battalion headquarters in CONUS because of the timing and uncertain status of the rifle companies at that time.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


W. R. GAUTREY
Cpt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

GPOP-OT(14 Nov 66)

4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 97th MP Bn

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 17 FEB 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



G. L. McMULLEN
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)

HQ DA, OACSFOR, Washington, D.C. 20310

2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

2b. GROUP

3. REPORT TITLE

Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 97th Military Police Battalion

4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations 1 Jun to 31 Oct 66.

5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)

CO, 97th Military Police Battalion

6. REPORT DATE

14 November 1966

7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES

10

7b. NO. OF REFS

8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.

b. PROJECT NO.

c.

N/A

d.

9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

660419

9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)

10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

N/A

12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY

DA, OACSFOR, Washington, D.C. 20310

13. ABSTRACT

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification